AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

This is a continuation of Application No. 09/889,303 filed July 13, 2001, which is a Continuation Application of PCT Application No. PCT/JP00/00110 filed January 12, 2000; the above noted prior applications are all hereby incorporated by reference.

Page 28, please replace the first full paragraph with the following new one:

Measurement of TGF-ß like activity

In order to detect the TGF- ß like activity, a screening system was constructed making use of the expression of a reporter gene. A luciferase gene was transfected into downstream of the PAI-1 promoter gene of mink lung epithelial cells (MvlLu) in which expression of plasminogen activator-1 (PAI-1) is induced by TGF- ß due to excess expression of TGF- ß receptor (*Journal of Biological Chemistry*, vol. 262, pp. 17467 - 17474, 1987), (*Analytical Biochemistry*, vol. 216, pp. 276 - 284, 1994).